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Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Summary

The report summarizes the normative aspects of the Entity's work, in particular its support for gender-specific intergovernmental processes and efforts to increase attention to gender equality aspects in sectoral intergovernmental processes.

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I. Introduction

1. By paragraph 49 of its resolution 64/289, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). By paragraph 67 (c) of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the head of UN-Women to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women an annual report on the normative aspects of the Entity's work and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

II. Strengthening the institutional foundations for delivering on the normative aspects of UN-Women's work

2. In December 2010, UN-Women reported to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session on the planned strategic direction and the necessary administrative and institutional changes to consolidate the previous four offices[1] into a dynamic and innovative structure to implement all the functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2011/2). Since then, UN-Women has articulated its vision, mission and thematic priorities, and significant progress has been made to ensure that the Entity can fully discharge its responsibilities and meet the demands of Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders towards the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN-Women reported on those efforts to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session (see A/66/120) with a focus on progress in regard to the governance of the Entity; administration and human resources; financing; and transitional arrangements. The Executive Director of UN-Women submitted an annual report on operational activities for the consideration of the Executive Board (see UNW/2012/1), in accordance with paragraph 67 (d) of resolution 64/289. That report is expected to be considered by the Board at its first regular session, to be held on 24 and 25 January 2012.[2]

3. Since UN-Women brings together the mandates and functions of the four previous entities engaged in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women, with an additional coordinating role (see paragraphs 49 and 53 of resolution 64/289), its strategic orientation and procedures have been geared to supporting an integrated approach to delivering concrete results in three functional areas, namely (a) expanding demand-driven support to Member States at the national level, in line with national priorities; (b) supporting intergovernmental processes to strengthen the global policy and normative framework for gender equality and its implementation on the ground; and (c) leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

[1] The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

[2] The report gives an overview of UN-Women's operational activities in thematic areas.

4. By its decision 2011/3 of 30 June 2011, the Executive Board endorsed the strategic plan of UN-Women for 2011-2013 (see UNW/2011/9 and UNW/2011/13), which is being implemented. The strategic plan provides the framework and direction for the support extended by UN-Women to Member States; its partnerships with women's organizations and networks, other civil society organizations, academia and experts, the mass media and the private sector; and its efforts to build institutional capacity to undertake the functions laid out in its founding resolution.

5. UN-Women's normative support function is an integral part of its strategic plan for 2011-2013, one of whose six goals is to support the development of a comprehensive set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment that is dynamic, responds to new and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities and provides a firm basis for action by Governments and other stakeholders at all levels. This goal has two main aspects, namely, UN-Women's support for intergovernmental processes focused specifically on gender equality and the empowerment of women and its promotion of the inclusion of a gender perspective in sectoral or thematic intergovernmental processes. A third aspect highlights the feedback loop that ensures that UN-Women brings back to the intergovernmental debates the experiences gained and lessons learned through its operational activities.

6. By its decision 2011/5 of 7 December 2011, the Executive Board approved UN-Women's institutional budget for 2012-2013 (see UNW/2011/11, 12 and 13), which will enable the Entity to achieve results through high-quality technical expertise, leveraging resources, partnerships, brokering knowledge, advocacy and influence, and building capacity, and thus to contribute to changing the lives of women and girls on the ground. The General Assembly is expected to adopt the proposed programme budget for UN-Women for 2012-2013 (assessed contribution) before the end of 2011.

7. In the course of 2011, UN-Women worked strategically and proactively to enhance outcomes on gender equality and the empowerment of women in intergovernmental processes. Key objectives included the efficient delivery of critical support and forward-looking recommendations to intergovernmental discussions, as well as the leveraging of such discussions to help shape a results-oriented and actionable agenda for gender equality and the empowerment of women. These efforts have resulted in greater coherence between the normative support UN-Women provides to normative processes and its operational support to partners at the national level in the implementation of these outcomes. Translating these mutually supportive mandates and functions into concrete changes for women and girls is a principal task which UN-Women is working to achieve.

III. UN-Women support to normative intergovernmental processes and implementation of policy guidance

8. The establishment of UN-Women as a composite entity has strengthened capacity to provide support beyond the gender-specific intergovernmental processes to sectoral intergovernmental processes where a gender perspective can be strengthened, as well as to provide support in the implementation of the resulting policy and normative framework at country level. With the successful conduct of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in February and

March 2011, UN-Women has smoothly assumed its responsibilities of supporting intergovernmental normative processes and has since continued to exercise this function throughout the intergovernmental calendar year. In these efforts, UN-Women has focused on adding value, through research and analysis and forward-looking policy recommendations, and on facilitating intergovernmental discussions and consensus-building and the strengthening of the normative framework for gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women has also focused on contributing to closing the implementation gap between global commitments and women's daily realities through its follow-up of intergovernmental outcomes.

Commission on the Status of Women

9. The Commission on the Status of Women, as the principal global policymaking body dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women, provides policy guidance in a range of sectoral areas. The Commission's guidance has helped to deepen discussions across intergovernmental bodies as well as guided implementation on the ground. In early 2011, UN-Women supported the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, which resulted, among other outcomes, in a set of agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (see E/2011/27, chap I, sect. A). These agreed conclusions expand the global normative framework in a number of key areas, including national legislation, policies and programmes; access to and participation in education; gender-sensitive quality education and training, including in the field of science and technology; the transition from education to full employment and decent work; increasing the retention and progression of women in science and technology employment; and making science and technology responsive to women's needs. Follow-up work to implement these agreed conclusions is now under way by relevant stakeholders.

10. The session attracted large numbers of participants from Governments, including many ministers and other senior officials, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system. United Nations entities and Member States convened some 60 parallel events and there were well over 200 events organized by non-governmental organizations. These numbers and events confirmed the Commission's central role as a primary intergovernmental body for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming and as a key platform for networking and exchanges of experience among all stakeholders. UN-Women used the occasion to bring together stakeholders from around the world and to build new as well as strengthen existing partnerships that contribute to achieving results for women. These partnerships are an integral part of UN-Women's efforts at the national level in the follow-up to and implementation of the recommendations that emanated from the session.

11. To provide substantive inputs for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, UN-Women convened an expert group meeting on enabling rural women's economic empowerment in Accra from 20 to 23 September 2011. UN-Women prepared the documentation for the session with a particular focus on supporting the Commission in consolidating and expanding intergovernmental policy guidance that targets this

particular group of women. The Entity's outreach to civil society groups aims to increase their contribution to and involvement in the session and to establish a strong basis for follow-up. In particular, UN-Women coordinates the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in the session. The Entity supports the bureau of the Commission in its responsibilities. It will extend its full support to the Commission in its deliberations. UN-Women will play an active role in efforts to implement the results of the session on the ground, including through its support to Member States and its coordination role across the United Nations system.

Economic and Social Council

12. UN-Women's engagement with the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of July 2011 focused on two aspects, namely the Council's role in regard to gender mainstreaming and operational activities. In both areas, UN-Women created opportunities for moving forward key elements of its own mandate, especially as they pertain to its coordination function and efforts to create a positive feedback loop between its normative support function and its operational activities. Specifically, UN-Women prepared the mandated report for the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2011/114). The report assessed progress in mainstreaming gender perspectives at the country level, especially through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process. It also provided new insights into advances made in terms of United Nations staff capacity development for gender mainstreaming.

13. The Council's resolution on the topic (resolution 2011/6) provides clear guidance and reinforces UN-Women's coordination function in relation to the entities of the United Nations system. Accordingly, UN-Women is working through global coordination mechanisms,[3] including the United Nations Development Group, to ensure that system-wide policy decisions and recommendations on gender equality and the empowerment of women are implemented at regional and country levels.

14. UN-Women also made a substantive contribution to the Secretary-General's report on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women (E/2011/85), which covered the implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2010. The report identified ways in which the United Nations system could strengthen its capacity to ensure coordinated action, with UN-Women in the leadership role, and reviewed progress made by the United Nations system on cross-cutting issues. Together with the 2010 ministerial declaration, the Council's resolution on the topic (resolution 2011/5) provides strong guidance for follow-up work by UN-Women and the entities of the United Nations system that will contribute to closing the implementation gap between commitments and women's daily realities.

[3] The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars: the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group.

15. In its 2010 ministerial declaration, the Council recognized the continuing need for efforts to tackle discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women. A similar finding had emanated from the Secretary-General's 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] (E/CN.6/2012/2). In order to assist intergovernmental processes in moving forward the policy agenda on this topic, UN-Women joined forces with other entities in a panel discussion during the Council's 2011 coordination segment that identified opportunities for action by different stakeholders. The urgency of effective policy responses to gender stereotypes informs the work of UN-Women in a range of areas, including the elimination of violence against women and women's participation in decision-making. A panel discussion on "Leadership, coordination and accountability: evaluating the United Nations system's work on gender equality and women's empowerment" flagged progress as well as continuing challenges in ensuring that gender equality was achieved through the organizations' work as well as the system's coordination mechanisms and efforts. The participation of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and senior officials from several other entities (the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization) sent a clear signal of the system's commitment to moving forward in partnership.

General Assembly

16. At its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly discussed the advancement and empowerment of women in the Second and Third Committees. The biennial debate in the Second Committee on women in development is a critical catalytic occasion for highlighting the gender aspects of the sectoral issues that are considered by that Committee and identifying key areas where attention to gender perspectives needs to move forward. The Third Committee reviews a number of thematic questions to advance the gender equality agenda. In the reports prepared to support deliberations,[5] and based on lessons learned from its own activities on the ground, together with the experiences of Member States and entities of the United Nations system, UN-Women was able to flag areas where further progress is needed, add value to the discussions and propose recommendations that proved useful in negotiation processes and outcomes on issues as diverse as gender-responsive budgeting and support for women migrant workers.

17. The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly further expand, deepen and strengthen the global policy framework for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the areas they cover. Together with other entities of the United Nations system, UN-Women will contribute to their implementation within

[4] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Reports of the Secretary-General on strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women (A/66/120); integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies (A/66/219); improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/66/181); violence against women migrant workers (A/66/212); and measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/66/211).

its mandate and areas of responsibility. Some examples of UN-Women's contribution to follow-up and implementation are provided in the following paragraphs.

18. UN-Women's efforts to strengthen women's economic empowerment, working in partnership with other entities of the United Nations system, responds to demand and is in line with detailed and multifaceted policy guidance. In particular, this area of work contributes directly to enhancing women's role in development — the topic of one of the resolutions of the General Assembly. Aware of the particular needs of women in least developed countries, UN-Women organized a number of special events to advocate for the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment considerations in the outcome document of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9 to 13 May 2011. UN-Women has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the United Nations system in the implementation of the recommendations focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women has also committed itself to providing support to all least developed countries on the basis of national demand and priorities, with a focus on the economic empowerment of women and the needs of women in poor rural areas.[6] The comprehensive preparations for, and outcome on, the priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session will give further impetus to this work, including through UN-Women's partnering with key United Nations entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme in the lead-up to the session and in coordinating a system-wide response.

19. Another area of focus to strengthen women's economic empowerment pertains to women migrant workers, an issue which has received consistent attention from the General Assembly (most recently in resolution 66/128) and where UN-Women has ongoing and proposed work in several regions, including Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Recently, the Entity has forged a strong partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration to support the ratification and implementation of the new ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers. A Caribbean-wide network of domestic workers' organizations and their support groups has been launched to advance this agenda. The Entity continues to provide technical support on gender equality, migration and development, especially as they concern care workers, to the Global Forum on Migration and Development. At the same time, UN-Women supports the development and implementation of gender-sensitive policies, legislation, action plans and front-line services on health-care information and access and safe and efficient transfer of remittances and their productive investment for women migrant workers, especially domestic workers, and strengthens capacities of women migrant workers' organizations to access entitlements.

20. In response to an increase in demand across all regions, UN-Women is consolidating and expanding its work in support of women's leadership and participation in all areas of the political process and other areas of civic engagement. This area of work is aligned with Millennium Development Goal 3 and

[6] See also E/CN.6/2012/10 (women's economic empowerment) and E/CN.6/2012/3 and 4 (priority theme).

resolutions emanating from intergovernmental processes that have highlighted the importance of women's full and equal representation in public life and decision-making, especially the most recent resolution of the General Assembly, resolution 66/130. To further this agenda, UN-Women co-sponsored a high-level side event on women's political participation in conjunction with the general debate at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 19 September 2011. The Joint Statement on Advancing Women's Political Participation, together with resolution 66/130, will provide further impetus to this work. Recent initiatives include UN-Women's technical assistance to several countries in the Middle East and North Africa and the development of a series of programmes to ensure that women are at the table during transition processes and that their interests and concerns are addressed. UN-Women also stepped up its efforts to ensure adherence to gender equality commitments in electoral assistance provided by the United Nations, through inter-agency mechanisms and in partnership with the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, UNDP and other entities.[7]

Security Council

21. In October 2011, the Security Council held its annual open debate on women and peace and security, which this time focused on the theme of women's participation and role in conflict resolution and mediation. UN-Women prepared the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/598) through an inter-agency consultative process. Successive Security Council resolutions and presidential statements guide the global and United Nations system-wide efforts to enhance women's role in conflict resolution and prevention. UN-Women, in particular, seeks to support Member States in the implementation of policy commitments pertaining to women's needs during and after conflict and to ensure that women are empowered to participate as key actors in conflict prevention and resolution and long-term peacebuilding.

22. UN-Women's programming efforts aim to channel resources and technical assistance to support gender-responsive reforms in community security systems, peacekeeper training, post-conflict planning, transitional justice, mediation and public service delivery. UN-Women also supports advocacy to ensure that women have access to leadership opportunities in conflict resolution and leads coordination and policy analysis on women and peace and security. One example of this work, focused on gender equality and mediation, is the strategy jointly developed by UN-Women and the Department of Political Affairs to bring women and their concerns to the peace table. The strategy includes support for institutional and policy change; capacity-building at both the national and local levels; knowledge sharing; and fostering partnerships and women's peace coalitions. In 2011, UN-Women supported advocacy efforts and training of Ivorian women during the post-electoral crisis and development of a regional training series on mediation, bringing together 32 high-level women leaders from across the West African region. It also provided support to women's peace committees in Central Asia and the southern Caucasus, including training for over 70 civil society leaders.

23. UN-Women's normative support to the above-mentioned intergovernmental processes benefited from its regional, subregional and country presences. The

[7] See A/66/314.

experiences, lessons learned and knowledge generated through the Entity's operational activities and support provided to stakeholders on the ground has informed and enriched its research and analysis, as well as the recommendations submitted for consideration by intergovernmental bodies. In this way, UN-Women's operational work feeds back directly into the normative support work.

Sectoral and thematic intergovernmental processes and other processes

24. The establishment of UN-Women has been the impetus for deepening engagement with sectoral intergovernmental processes in an effort to promote the inclusion of gender perspectives in analysis, discussions, results and follow-up. During 2011, UN-Women strategically targeted three major United Nations intergovernmental processes and a global event on aid effectiveness to promote attention to gender equality issues that could be leveraged for results on the ground.

25. UN-Women worked to increase the visibility of gender equality issues at the high-level meeting on AIDS held at United Nations Headquarters in June 2011. This work draws from UN-Women's operational activities. As a member of the UNAIDS Inter-agency Working Group on Gender and HIV, UN-Women supported the preparatory process by providing relevant analysis on the gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS. UN-Women facilitated the participation of civil society organizations in the meeting, particularly representatives of HIV-positive women's organizations, organizations of caregivers and women's organizations active in the field of HIV and AIDS. As a member of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, UN-Women supported the collection and compilation of inputs from over 80 civil society organizations through a virtual consultation and co-organized an event to present the findings and priorities identified by women themselves as being central to the HIV response. Finally, UN-Women supported the participation of HIV-positive women's organizations and networks in Government delegations to the high-level meeting.

26. In the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex) resulting from the meeting, Member States acknowledge that women's empowerment and gender equality are fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV, and pledged to eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence, as well as increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection.

27. UN-Women invested significant efforts to promote the inclusion of gender perspectives in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations. UN-Women aims to be a catalyst for ensuring that the institutional arrangements for implementation of the 2010 Cancun Agreements and climate finance mechanisms that are still under negotiation are gender-responsive, and that commitments to gender equality and women's rights are mainstreamed in the intergovernmental work towards an agreement on a post-2012 framework to address the global challenge of climate change. UN-Women provided technical support to delegations upon request, including identifying possible entry points for attention to gender equality issues. In collaboration with the International Organization of la Francophonie, UN-Women developed a guidance note on gender equality issues and climate change for francophone Member States.

28. UN-Women worked closely with other United Nations entities and civil society organizations, including the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, on advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives. As part of these efforts, UN-Women participated in several side events at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011, and supported the issuance of a stakeholders' daily newsletter that highlighted the views of gender equality advocates. The resolution of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session had created a strong basis and much-needed impetus for such advocacy and follow-up.

29. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012. UN-Women participates in United Nations system-wide coordination mechanisms for the Conference, such as the High-level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group, and has made a substantive contribution to the compilation document that will serve as a basis for the preparation of a zero-draft of the outcome document. Guided by the recommendations that emanated from the panel discussion on gender equality and sustainable development held during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[8] UN-Women is working with United Nations system-wide focal points for non-governmental organizations to facilitate the involvement and participation of women's organizations in the process. The Entity is also preparing four substantive papers[9] to increase the knowledge base on gender equality issues in the context of sustainable development. To attract further attention to gender equality and women's empowerment at the Conference, UN-Women is organizing a high-level women's leadership forum in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme.

30. UN-Women engaged strategically with the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, in an effort to deepen understanding of and action on gender equality considerations. In preparation for the Forum, UN-Women convened national and regional consultations to mobilize government partners and civil society organizations around gender equality issues and their relevance to aid effectiveness. In particular, the Entity's high-level meeting held in Rwanda in July 2011 was instrumental in identifying key recommendations aimed at ensuring a positive outcome in Busan with regard to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women also played a key role in drawing attention to the optional module on gender equality that was included for the first time in the Paris Declaration monitoring framework, and provided technical and strategic advice to countries completing the questionnaire.

31. During the Forum, UN-Women and the Network on Gender Equality of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development co-organized a side event and took part in the special session on gender equality that was held on the first day of the Forum. UN-Women's country

[8] See the moderator's summary, E/CN.6/2011/CRP.7, on www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm#panel4.

[9] These papers focus on a green economy; the institutional framework for sustainable development; progress made in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals; and the three pillars of sustainable development.

and regional offices provided guidance and support to stakeholders to ensure effective participation of representatives of women's organizations in the Busan Global Civil Society Forum. UN-Women also supported the convening of a women's forum as part of the Civil Society Forum, which provided space for highlighting women's key demands. The consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women of its review theme on financing for gender equality at its fifty-sixth session can serve to maintain the momentum and to give further impetus for strengthening gender equality results on the ground.

32. UN-Women actively supported a number of other processes that contribute to strengthening the global normative and policy framework for gender equality. It supported the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in the development of a new general recommendation on the protection of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations. In addition to providing technical support, UN-Women highlighted key experiences from its own work during the Committee's day of general discussion on 18 July 2011. UN-Women has continued to support States parties, as well as civil society actors, in the preparation of reports under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as in the implementation of the Committee's concluding observations, through technical and financial support, multi-stakeholder training and capacity-building workshops, "mock sessions", the development of implementation plans and other activities.

33. The Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice, established by the Human Rights Council in resolution 15/23 of 2010 for an initial period of three years, is to work in close coordination with UN-Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Commission on the Status of Women and other United Nations entities. UN-Women is helping the Working Group to address its priority themes, namely public life and citizenship; economic life including dimensions of social and cultural life; family life; health and safety; and violence against women. There are significant synergies between the work of the Working Group and that of UN-Women, in particular the Entity's support for intergovernmental processes and the assistance it provides to countries around the world in regard to legal reform. This collaboration contributes in a very practical way to strengthening the links between normative frameworks and women's daily realities.

34. UN-Women is an active member of the United Nations task force preparing for the 20-year review of the implementation of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled for 2014. The Entity will contribute to the review process at the national as well as global levels.

V. Conclusion

35. UN-Women proactively and successfully supported gender-specific intergovernmental processes to help move forward the global gender equality agenda. The Entity also engaged strategically with sectoral processes in an effort to enhance gender equality outcomes. In these engagements, UN-Women links its normative support function with its operational experience and expertise. In particular, UN-Women is moving to implement the normative guidance of intergovernmental bodies, for example in areas such as women's economic

empowerment and participation in public life. Priority emphasis is placed on supporting the work of Member States, in intergovernmental bodies, to further refine and expand the normative framework, as well as on helping to close the implementation gap between Member States' policy commitments and women's daily realities.

36. Given the inextricable link between these two areas of its work, UN-Women proposes to prepare a single consolidated report responding to the mandates of paragraphs 67 (c) and 67 (d) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, and to have that report presented to both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN-Women.